

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /120 W

----- 027085

R 031335Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6321

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 00822

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WZ

SUBJECT: CHANGE IN PORTUGAL - FIRST SWAZI REACTIONS

1. PRELIMINARY SWAZI REACTIONS TO THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN PORTUGAL HAVE BEEN CAUTIOUS, PLEASED AND SLIGHTLY APPREHENSIVE.

2. EMBASSY SAMPLING BY NO MEANS EXHAUSTIVE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY REPRESENTATIVE EDUCATED SWAZIS AND LIBERAL EXPATRIATES WHO LONG TIME SWAZILAND RESIDENTS.

3. SWAZIS BELIEVE MOTIVATION PORTUGUESE COUP COMPLETELY CONTAINED IN COLONIAL WARS AND SPINOLS BOOK CATALYST. CONDITIONS METROPOLITAN PORTUGAL IN THEIR OPINION NOT IMPORTANT OR EVEN RELEVANT.

4. INVARIABLY SWAZIS PREFACE REMARKS WITH THEIR CONTINUED INTEREST SEEING PEACEFUL CHANGE MOZAMBIQUE AND EVENTUAL EMERGENCE MAJORITY RULE THERE.

THEY THEN DEMONSTRATE VARIOUS DEGREES APPREHENSION

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ABOUT UNCERTAINTY FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

A. WITHOUT EXCEPTION SWAZIS VOLUNTEER CONCERN
THAT WHATEVER REGIME EMERGES MOZAMBIQUE RETENTION
SWAZI ACCESS PORT LOURENCO MARQUES VITAL.

B. MOST IMMEDIATE AFFECT OF INTERNAL
DEVELOPMENTS MOZAMBIQUE WILL BE ON RHODESIA. ALL
PREDICTIONS SUGGEST DRASTIC RHODESIAN ACTION RANGING
FROM QUICK POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION WITH AFRICANS TO
SCORCHED EARTH POLICY FOR ENTIRE BORDER AREA.
SWAZIS DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE RSA WILL AUGMENT SIZE
SECURITY FORCES NOW IN RHODESIA.

C. MOST EXTREME SWAZI APPREHENSION CONCERNS
POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN REACTION. WORDLY SWAZIS
DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE SOUTH AFRICA CAN TOLERAGE
OSTENSIBLE SWAZI NEUTRALITY SHOULD EVENTUAL MOZAMBIQUE
GOVERNMENT PERMIT PAC OR NAC-TYPE ACTIVISTS OPERATE
OUT OF MOZAMBIQUE. ONE SWAZI EXPRESSED HIS "FEAR"
OF THE EVENTUALITY THAT SWAZILAND WOULD EITHER HAVE
TO ALIENATE ITSELF FROM THE REST OF BLACK AFRICA OR
RISK PHYSICAL OCCUPATION BY SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY
FORCES.

5. CONSENSUS IS THAT EVENTS PORTUGAL MOST
SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT FOR ENTIRE SOUTHERN
AFRICAN REGION IN MANY YEARS.
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